

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

May 18, 2022

Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29 KJVS

[18] And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; [19] I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. [20] Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. [21] And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. [22] Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. [23] And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. [24] But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. [25] But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. [26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: [27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. [28] And I will give him the morning star. [29] He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

As we explore these messages that King Jesus has decreed to His seven churches we remember that though they were historic assemblies, individual in their descriptions, they were also representative of all of the churches of Christ then and since. Lest we in our arrogance or perceived religious safety choose to believe that we or our church are not found among these we must look deep into each of these letters in honesty and humility. Does our church fit any of John's letters thus far? More personally ask, "Do I fit anything I've read so far? Are any of these sins mine?" Or can we determine that we have only lined up with the praises? [19] I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Is this you? Great! Keep it up! As we dig into this "compromised" church we now ask, "Am I comprising my faith? Do I believe all the right things yet allow a little 'harmless' sin to creep in?" Jesus opens with His all seeing eyes of fire and His feet like fine brass, both symbolic of judgement. If He appeared among us right now looking like that would He commence judgement upon us? Notice in verse 20 where He judges the church for its "suffering" (eaō; to let be that is permit or leave alone) Jezebel. (Her name means Ba'al is exalted. Ba'al is the demonic, false god of fertility and weather. This demon's image is still quite common among popular godless culture) The Church deems it to be permissible to allow or to leave alone this evil teaching perhaps not wanting to upset the worldly activities of so many congregants. Some churches today allow open sinful behavior and worse they promote it through the pulpit. While the leadership remained weak in Thyatira, many within still did things pleasing to the Lord, Who declared His offer of forgiveness to any who repented and resisted this doctrine and even promised a lighter load for them. Verse 24. This Jezebel may be a symbolic representative of the original who so damaged the people of Israel. Highlights of her

story are found in 1 Kings 16:31, 18:4-19, chapters 19, 21 and in 2 Kings 9. Her legacy led Israel into fornication (varying sexual sin) and idolotry (placing anything ahead God) These things even led many to carelessly and apathetically mix loose idolotry in with their worship of God. We are warned of such things elsewhere. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13. Paul expands on this in chapter 10, Romans 14 and in many other passages. These principles apply to every part of life from music to movies and books and all entertainment. Even the places we go and the things we do. We are our brothers' keepers and must not provide stumbling blocks. Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 8:9. Tonight's verse 22 speaks of a bed which may be one of a punishment of sickness and of great tribulation. Scary words in reference to a church. Verse 23 dives even deeper to a shocking point describing the ultimate end of the horrid teaching of Jezebel. Jesus uses this verse to exemplify His disdain of sin. He does however divulge to us one of His greatest character traits saying He searches our reins and hearts, speaking of our inmost minds and the center seat of our soul and spirit. Confer; Psalm 7:9, 26:2, Jeremiah 17:10, 20:12. God does indeed judge our hearts and motives. Let your life motive be Christ! Our works will be judged! Revelation 20:12-13, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Jesus in verse 26 moves into His classic closing for these letters. He speaks as always to His overcomers. This speaks of those who prevail over sin. We all fight sin in our lives. We all find success in so doing. While we cannot finish this fight, Jesus did. In following and trusting Him we gain the upper hand and overcome in His Name. Each letter promises the overcomers new and unique rewards. He first adds here the keeping or guarding of His works which He shares with us as the proliferation of His gospel. Our works as well as His have little value unless they result in new believers and the growth of His Church. Acts 2:41-47. This one fact will result in leading and correcting nations in His Kingdom. We share in His work and will even share His rule and reign. 2 Timothy 2:12. Jesus references the Morning Star in verse 28 which brings us to 2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 22:16. This Dawning Light in our hearts is none other than Jesus Christ. Amen